

# No permanent community television licence for Adelaide

ACMA will not allocate a permanent community television broadcasting licence for Adelaide, but will seek expressions of interest from organisations interested in conducting a future community television trial. In the interim, ACMA has extended the existing trial for six months, to 4 January 2007.

Applications were invited in October 2004 for the permanent community television licence SL1150811 to serve Adelaide. There were two applicants—C31 Adelaide Limited (C31), which conducted the trial, and OUR TV Adelaide Limited (OUR TV). Both applicants proposed to provide a service targeting the general community in the Adelaide licence area.

ACMA assessed the two applications against the criteria in section 84(2) of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* and considers that neither applicant meets the requirements.

C31 has operated a community television trial service under an open narrowcasting television class licence since 24 April 2004. There is insufficient evidence that the service proposed by C31 would meet existing and perceived future needs of the

community. C31 did not provide evidence of having conducted research or consultation with community groups about the needs and interests of the local community, nor did it provide sufficient evidence of active encouragement of community participation in the service. There is also insufficient evidence that C31 has the financial and management capacity to provide the proposed service.

OUR TV did not provide evidence that could satisfy ACMA that it has the financial or technical capacity to provide the proposed service.

In October 2006, ACMA will seek expressions of interest from organisations interested in conducting a future community television trial in Adelaide, and allow an application period of one month. An extension of time beyond the closing date is unlikely to be granted.

Applicants must meet the criteria for a trial community television service, in particular, demonstrating an understanding of the needs and interests of the local community. They should also demonstrate that they have the capacity to provide the proposed service; and provide access for members of the community to

participate in the programming and operations of the service.

If no applicant convincingly meets the criteria to operate the service for community and educational non-profit purposes, ACMA will terminate the current trial in Adelaide.

## COMMUNITY TELEVISION LICENCES TRIAL

A trial of community television in Australia using the vacant sixth television channel (UHF channel 31 in capital cities) was requested by the government in 1992. Trial community television services have operated since 1994 under the open narrowcasting television class licence, with a special condition on the apparatus licence to be used for community and educational non-profit purposes. A review of the community television trial under Schedule 4 to the *Broadcasting Services Act* was tabled in Parliament in June 2002 and the Act was amended in 2002.

The framework for community television licences is designed to improve the financial and management capacity and accountability of community television licensees. It also assists the revenue-raising ability of the

community television sector. The measures are intended to balance the need for ongoing financial viability of the sector with the need to ensure that it maintains its community and not-for-profit nature.

Open narrowcasting television class licences are not separately issued to service providers in the same manner as service licences such as permanent community or commercial licences. However, for an open narrowcasting television service to operate using the broadcasting services bands, ACMA must firstly make spectrum available for the service and the service provider must obtain, from ACMA, an apparatus licence (under the *Radiocommunications Act 1992*) for its transmitter. A condition is placed on apparatus licences issued for the purpose of community television trials that the transmitter be used only 'to provide an open narrowcasting television service for community and educational non-profit purposes'.

If ACMA decides to extend the trial at the end of a trial period, it may require a trial operator to demonstrate: continued compliance with the condition that the licence only be used 'to provide an open narrowcasting television service for community and educational non-profit purposes'; and the matters set out above.

## TEMPORARY COMMUNITY BROADCASTING LICENCES ALLOCATED 19 JUNE–28 JULY 2006

State	Licence area	Licensee	Community served	Frequency	Start	Finish	Allocated
SA	Port Augusta RA1	Umeewarra Aboriginal Media Association	Aboriginal	89.1 MHz	1/7/06	31/12/06	3/7/06
WA	Pilbara RA1	Gumala Aboriginal Corporation	Aboriginal	102.1 MHz	26/7/06	25/7/07	3/7/06
				104.9 MHz			
				101.7 MHz			
				102.7 MHz			
				102.9 MHz			
				106.5 MHz			
102.9 MHz							
WA	Collie RA1	Collie Community Broadcasting Association Inc.	General	1089 kHz	1/11/06	31/10/07	25/7/06